

machinery which helps us to function would also be reduced. These savings could be used for other funding needs or to reduce the total level of revenue required of state government. These tax savings would not be at the expense of any existing programs. Decreasing the time in session should be to decrease the volume of legislation introduced each session. Ideally, this would mean that we could give more thoughtful consideration to better bills and this would have the added benefit of lessening the need for later corrective legislation on hastily prepared and enacted bills. Less legislative time may result in more effective and efficient use of the time we are in session. Early and persistent processing of bills would minimize the need to run marathon sessions to the end of the legislative calendar. The process can and should be reduced and this can be done without sacrificing the quality of legislation. Shortening the session would decrease the annual period of disruption experienced by state agencies. Our being in session puts the rest of the government on hold in many ways. Agencies are forced to suspend their regular activities so that they may follow bills, attend and testify at hearings, respond to inquiries from the public by telephone and written response and often printing must be done for agencies by outside business at a premium while the Legislature ties up the printing office. Shortening the sessions will free up many executive directors of associations, special interest groups, so that they may have more time to better serve their numbers and their members needs. As long as we are in session they must focus their attention on lobbying and following legislation that pertains to their group. Shortening the sessions would prevent this from becoming a full time occupation for legislators. It was never intended that this body meet or work full time but that is what is happening in some cases to meet the work load. If you will read a handout I passed out on what other Legislatures...and I marked some X's by those very hurriedly this morning, you might look and there is a lot of states that do not, even bigger states than Nebraska that have as short a sessions as 60-60 and I see no reason why Nebraska can't develop, go back into a 60-60 day sessions and get everything accomplished. If other states are doing it and larger states than ours are, I don't see why we can't either. So with that, I would ask for your vote to bring LR 33 out of committee.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wesely.